

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 7, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Krishnan, S. Rajagopal, D. Stillinger, Township Liaison Kathy Abbott (7: 25- 8:05).

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7, Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from January 10, 2012 were approved, motioned by Steve Carroll, 2nd by Lou Caprioglio, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair. – 7:27-7:54

Review action report & status. Green Challenge is available on website and in print form. CTEC members were asked to get their liaison committees to take the challenge: Township Committee, Planning Board, Open Space & Frank will present to senior center. Deferring conservation easement write-up for SJ, will concentrate on NRI. Sustainable Jersey updates will be ready soon, significant changes.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road. Propose to subdivide existing upper 4 lots into 7 lots. Requesting C(2) hardship variances for disturbance of steep slopes, height of structural retaining walls. Three of the current 4 upper lots have 25% slopes on less than a fifth of the lot. Proposed lots will be sewerred; there is a utility easement across an off-site lower lot to provide sewer access. Two nearby homes are on septic and one home is on well water. 156 trees over 12" in diameter including at least 9 of 30" or more in diameter are proposed to be removed. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, 2011.

PENDING. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, applicant or representatives did not attend. Application may have been before the BOA on January 26, 2012. S. Carroll motioned to approve memo from CTEC to BOA and P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor.

PENDING. D'onofrio, 29 Candace Lane, B 38 L 31. 8-26-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for rear yard setback to construct an addition. Steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. Russo, B 39 L 30, 112 Candace Lane. 7-27-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for rear yard setback to construct a deck. There is a conservation easement on the steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. PSE&G expansion of power line right-of-way. 6-13-11, application to NJDEP for freshwater wetlands general permit to do construction work along the ROW. Memo to NJDEP with a similar memo to NJBPU was mailed and also was presented at the public hearing on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information, in redevelopment.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison. Discussion continued on the Farming Ordinance. Reviewed Longview – pending application, drainage issues have been addressed and will be added to plans. There are soil concerns, whether the soil can handle the water. The township engineer is asking for additional soil testing. Five houses would have been better than seven. New Environmental Impact Statement will be discussed at next meeting.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott. Farming ordinance not on upcoming meeting, presented the Chatham Glen sewer treatment plant generator letter at last meeting.

Open Space Committee report. P. Collington, S. Krishnan - Open Space Committee liaisons. They welcomed CTEC liaisons support. Working on a grant for trails and establishing trails on existing open space properties. They would like to revamp their website to be similar to CTEC. Open Space maps exist on their website. They would like to coordinate a cleanup with CTEC, possibly on the “Green Village Pond Conservation Area” on Green Village Rd.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington - Chair. Eco Film and discussion series continued with Water Conservation, 24 people attended. Discussion included rain gardens, rain barrels, demonstrations and panelists. High school students are involved in writing press releases and articles to the Patch, Courier and Independent Press for CTEC. Continuation with safe routes to school.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito - Chair, P. Collington. Students will do a press release on “The Green Challenge”, visit senior citizens to take “The Green Challenge” and speak with seniors about single stream recycling.

Recycling Committee report. F. Esposito - Chair. Single stream recycling video on website. Will speak with senior citizens about single stream recycling. If the county doesn't run a electronic event ,the the mayor would consider to run our own event.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- S. Rajagopal elected to compile a list of all open space property. CTEC would like open space land contiguous to the refuge to be sold to them. CTEC refers to the vacant area on Green Village Road as “Green Village Pond Conservation Area” since it is undisturbed, has a functioning vernal pond, diverse wetland species and a brook. It will be the site of CTEC's annual cleanup project in April, with the goal of creating a nature trail. Open space properties need to address parking.
- CTEC members are to write a short bullet list of accomplishments of the subcommittees for the CTEC annual report to be presented to the Township Committee.
- Budget. S. Carroll motioned to approve and send to Township Committee the 2012 budget, P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor.

CTEC secretary (\$125 x 11 meetings):	\$1,375
Office supplies (\$211.94 in 2011):	\$280
ANJEC dues:	\$380
ANJEC off-site training:	\$100
Computer accessories (case, cables):	\$100
Document services (large format scans):	\$200
Printing (cards, etc.):	\$100
Eco-film series:	\$300
Green fair:	\$300
CTEC email list setup:	\$185
CTEC email list mailing budget:	\$108
Spring clean-up:	\$200
Conservation easement inventory summary	\$2,000
Outreach video and archiving	\$1,400

Total	\$7,028
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- Green Fair 2012. Any interest in having CTEC participate?
- Student volunteers for CTEC. Activities, projects. P. Collington, F. Esposito.
- CTEC may or may not be covered by the Open Public Meetings Act (read it at N.J.S.A. 10:4-6). We will act in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 except for subcommittee meetings to work on environmental projects such as the Eco-Film series, water projects, Natural Resources Inventory, Annual Cleanup, Conservation Easement Inventory, Green Fair, and to attend informal site visits.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 9-6-11, 10-8-11, 10-24-11, 11-14-11, 2-1-12. Subcommittee will do most of the updating with volunteers. All welcome to participate. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, M. Palmer.
- A memo was submitted to the Township Committee asking for open space tax funds to clean up an old household trash dump, now called the Green Village Pond Conservation Area, on Township property on Green Village Road to make possible a future nature trail. Project will be continued. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January 2012. Letter sent to Township Committee urging purchase of a gas rather than diesel backup generator for the sewage treatment plant at Chatham Glen.
- October 2011. Letter sent to Mayor Hagner commending Morris E. Enyeart (Township Webmaster-City Connections LLC) and Tom Salvus (Manager-Chatham Township Governmental Access TV / Electronic Community Bulletin Board) for their outstanding work and tremendous help in greatly improving CTEC's website, archiving, and public service communications. Letter (in e-mail form) sent to Senator Menendez urging full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

EVENTS

- Thursday, February 16, 7:30-8:30 PM, Propagating Native Plants for Butterflies, Pyramid Mountain NHA, Boonton Avenue in Montville, \$5. www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/pyrmtmain.asp.
- Monday, February 27, 6 PM, public hearing on the draft of the new State Plan. Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Read the Plan at http://nj.gov/state/planning/docs/dfplan_proposed.pdf. Abbott and Stillinger plan to attend.
- ANJEC EC commissioner training March 3 (9 AM-12:30 PM Metuchen), March 19 (5-8:30 PM Evesham), March 24 (9 AM-12:30 PM Denville). See anjec.org for more information. Free for CTEC members.
- ANJEC commissioner training Monday March 12, 7-9 PM, Bernards Township Court Room (1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge). Free for CTEC members. F. Esposito plans to attend.
- SEAMLESS, every first Tuesday at 8 AM. Madison Library.
- Ground Water Protection Committee. Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960.
- Consider joining the 2012 class of Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Environmental Steward training which will be offered in Atlantic, Warren, and Somerset counties, from January to June. Info at envirostewards.rutgers.edu.
- NJCF Annual Rally, March 10, 2012, Brookdale Community College. About \$80. www.njconservation.org.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:55 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary